and they were also provided railway tickets worth Rs. 86,000 for their journey to their native State/place. The entire cost was borne by the concerned ship owners/contractors etc. The remaining 94 labourers who were not willing to go back were provided some alternative employment of their choice and were paid their back wages totalling Rs. 1,17,795 which was also borne by the shipowners/contractors etc.

These workers were found to have been employed by Shipping/Clearing Agents, Stevedors (Principal employers) Mukadams and Labour Contractors. Police complaint and Court cases have been filed under relevant Sections of the I.P.C., Cr. P.C. and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 against companies and persons found employing these persons which are presently sub-judice. 24 persons were taken into police custody in this connection.

Implementation of Bonded Labour Abolition Act

1957. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to ensure effective implementation of Bonded Labour Abolition Act, Government have drawn out any plan of action to identify the products and areas of industry and households where use of bonded labour including child bonded labour is rampant and to free them and resettle them to enable to stand on their own feet; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved thereunder so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) As per sample survey cited by the National Commission on Rural Labour in its Report, most of the bonded labourers are employed in agriculture and allied activities.

Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 the responsibility for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers primarily rests with the State Governments concerned. To supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Govt. of India have to provide financial assistance on matching grant (50 : 50) basis to State Governments for rehabilitation of bonded labourers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme taken up since 1978-79. The Scheme as existing at present envisages provision of rehabilitation grant upto Rs. 6250 per released bonded labourer. The State Governments have been further advised to suitably integrate/dovetail in this Scheme other developmental poverty alleviation and employment generating schemes such as IRDP, JRY, TRYSEM etc. so as to pool and integrate the resources available under different schemes for the purpose of effective rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

According to reports received from the State Governments as on 31-12-93, out of the 251,424 bonded labourers identified and released, only 7655 are still to be rehabilitated.

Proposal to Change Existing Labour Laws

1958. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Labour Ministry has proposed changes in some of existing labour laws and enactment of certain new laws in the current year in order to strengthen the social security network;

(b) if so, whether these proposed changes are related to the Workmen's Compensation Act and Minimum Wages Act;

(c) whether the new legislation will also deal with the welfare of agriculture and construction workers;

(d) whether any concrete amendments likely to be introduced have been decided upon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. (SANGMA) : (a) to (e) The Social Security laws in regard to which the Labour Ministry has proposed changes are : Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1973, and Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The amendment Bills in respect of the first two Acts have already been introduced in the Parliament. Particulars of proposals for amendments to Workmen's Compensation Act have been furnished vide reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1952 dated 7-3-1994. Laws for welfare of Agricultural and Construction Workers are under examination in Government.

Wage Board for Child Labour

1959. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Minimum Wage Advisery Board for child labourers to ensure minimum wages to them ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) whether the children will legally be allowed to seek employment in all industries except those which are injurious to health ;

(d) if so. what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor ;

(e) to what extent it will adverseiy affect the health of children ;

(f) what are the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Advisory Board in this regard ; and

(g) what is the total number of children at present working in various industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no specific law to allow children to seek employment. Various Central and State legislations prohibit child labour in factories, mines, plantations, shops and establishments as well as in areas of employment scheduled under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. In non-prohibited sectors of employment, conditions of work including health and safety aspects are required to be regulated under Part III of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

(f) No recommentation in this regard have been made by the Minimum Wages Advisory Board.

(g) As per 1981 census 13.6 million children (upto 14 years) were working in India in different areas of employment including the industrial sector.

Child Slavery

1960. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in the "Times of India" of 20th January, 1994 that "India tops in child slavery" ;

(b) whether a large number of Nobel Laureates have issued a New Year message expressing disdain against this inhuman system of child labour in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that an estimate of nearly 200 million children are forced to work like adults ; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware (from the above news item) of the new year message by Nobel Laureates in respect of child labour in general.